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| JCS | | | | | | |
| AMEMB BONN | | | | | | |
| AMEMB PARIS | | | | | | |
| AMEMB MOSCOW | | | | | | |
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| LIVE OAK | | | | | | |
| SECRET ECCC 9-05141 | | | | | | |
| Personal from General Norstad; SETAF for General Clarke; JCS pass to Defense and State. | | | | | | |
| 1. (S) Although Marshal Koniev's reply to General Clarke's protest of the attack on an American Mission vehicle on 20 March ends with the conciliatory sentence, "Allow me to express confidence that this occurrence will not serve as a basis | | | | | | |
| WRITER | SYMBOL ECCC | | LN 4013 | | SIGNATURE | |
| | TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required) | | EARLE G. WHEELER, GEN, USA | | TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE | |
| | PHONE 8006 | | PAGE NR. 1 | NR. OF PAGES 4 | PAUL C. FRITZ Lt Colonel, USAF Aide-de-Camp | |
| | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | | | | | |

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By D.J.H. NLE Date 6/15/88

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for the deterioration of our relations," I share the opinion that it is wholly unacceptable; and I believe this fact must be clearly established with the Soviets and with the public. The incident itself calls for a positive reaction, but further than that and more important is the fact that the general situation requires that we apply a brake when we have an opportunity to do so. The seriousness of our intentions must be conveyed to the Soviets.

2. (S) We can indicate our position by placing escorts on all Soviet movements outside of their compound -- an action which will probably be particularly onerous to them -- and by raising the entire subject to a rather high level by proposing a Koniev-Clarke meeting. I believe this action is strong without being provocative, and I am therefore authorizing Clarke to take the action indicated below as early as practicable 29 March. Those who have received Clarke's messages will recognize this as a slight modification of his proposal.

3. (S) Reply to Marshal Koniev:

"Dear Marshal Koniev:

On 22 March I protested the attack against members of the U.S. Military Liaison Mission by the East German police on 20 March. I have received your letter of 27 March, which I consider totally unacceptable. Your allegations of impropriety on the part of members of the U.S. Military Liaison Mission are without any foundation in fact; your letter offers nothing in explanation of the actions of the East German police or the lack of cooperation on the part of the U.S. Military Liaison Mission.

Yours faithfully,
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PAGE
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2

NR. OF
PAGES
4

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"Since the safety of the U.S. Military Liaison Mission personnel accredited to you cannot at this time be assured, I have suspended them temporarily from conducting their normal tours. The American Mission will, however, continue to maintain liaison with your headquarters.

"Our public has reacted strongly against this unwarranted attack against the military personnel of the United States, and this reaction will be heightened when the unsatisfactory nature of your response to me becomes known. I wish to avoid any incidents involving the Soviet Mission personnel accredited to me. Therefore, while I will permit them to carry out their normal duties, I must require that they travel at all times under American escort when outside of their compound.

"Although I view this occurrence with the utmost seriousness, I believe, therefore, that it will not serve as a basis for deterioration in our relations.

I believe, therefore, that it is necessary to supersede the interim steps which I have announced in this letter with permanent arrangements. I invite you to meet me in Heidelberg at the earliest date convenient to you to discuss the lifting of interim restrictions and the resumption of normal mission activities and relations.

Sincerely,"
(to be signed by General Clarke)

4. (S) For General Clarke: As indicated in paragraph 2 above, details of

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| SYMBOL | ECCC | PAGE NR. | NR. OF PAGES | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | INITIALS |
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implementation and timing are left to your discretion. However, I consider that the imposition of the requirement that Soviet Mission personnel be accompanied by American escort should be instituted at the time the Chief of the Soviet Mission visits your headquarters. Specifically, he should be escorted on his return to Frankfurt.

5. (U) SCP-4.

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